

Michigan Department of Community Health

Bulletin Number: MSA 12-47

Distribution: Optometrists, Rural Health Clinics, Federal Qualified Health Centers

Issued: October 1, 2012

Subject: Optometrist Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program Participation

Effective: November 1, 2012

Programs Affected: Medicaid

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides the opportunity for state Medicaid programs to improve the nation's healthcare through health information technology (HIT) by authorizing incentives for certain eligible professionals (EP) for the meaningful use of EHRs. The HIT provisions of the Recovery Act are primarily found in Title XIII, Division A, Health Information Technology, and in Title IV, Division B, Medicare and Medicaid Health Information Technology. These titles taken together are referred to as the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act.

The Recovery Act established 100 percent Federal Financial Participation (FFP) to provide incentive payments to eligible Medicaid providers to purchase, implement, and operate (including support services and staff training) certified EHR technology.

Effective November 1, 2012, optometrists will be added to the list of Medicaid professionals who are eligible for incentive payments. This list currently includes:

- Physicians
- Podiatrists
- Dentists
- Nurse Practitioners
- Certified Nurse Midwives
- Physician Assistants (PAs) who are practicing in Federal Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) or Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) that are led by a PA

These EPs must meet minimum Medicaid patient volume percentages (currently 20 percent for pediatricians and 30 percent for other EPs) and cannot participate in the Medicare EHR incentive during the same year. Incentive payments are available for no more than a six-year period.

Incentive payments after the initial adoption, implementation, and upgrading of EHR technology, require the provider to demonstrate "meaningful use" of the EHR technology. This is done through a means determined by the State and approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The State may also require providers to report clinical quality measures as a part of "meaningful use." As required by CMS, the EHR technology must be compatible with State and Federal administrative management systems and certified with the Certification of Health IT Program under the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

To participate in the Medicaid EHR incentive program, EPs must register with the National Level Repository (NLR) at the federal level. To register with the NLR, all EPs must have a National Provider Identifier (NPI) and be enrolled in the CMS Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS). Most providers also need to have an active user account in the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). CMS will use these systems to register the EP for the program and verify the EP's registration prior to notifying Michigan of the EP's

eligibility. Information entered at the NLR may only be changed at the NLR level and must match the information provided in CHAMPS.

EPs must also register as a provider in the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS). EPs who are providing services through managed care entities must be individually registered as a Medicaid provider and are required to complete a similar process to verify the provider is in good-standing and is eligible to receive an EHR incentive. The registration process for EPs is:

- Currently Medicaid-Enrolled Provider - Once Medicaid receives a valid EP request from the NLR, the Medicaid staff will send a welcome letter to the EP with instructions for logging on to CHAMPS to register for the EHR incentive payment on-line. Once the EP submits the registration information, Medicaid staff will start the review/validation process.
- Not Currently Medicaid-Enrolled Provider - Once Medicaid receives a valid EP request from the NLR, the Medicaid staff will send a welcome letter to the EP with instructions on enrolling in CHAMPS to register for the EHR incentive payment on-line. Note that this enrollment is for EHR incentive purposes only.

To access the CHAMPS system for enrollment, the EP must follow the directions on the website at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders, scroll down the middle of the page to *Hot Topics*, and click on the *CHAMPS* link. Once on the CHAMPS page, scroll down to *Accessing the CHAMPS system* for step by step instructions. Providers can also call 1-800-292-2550, option 2 for questions regarding CHAMPS enrollment. Once approved, the EP will receive a letter with instructions on completing the EHR portion of the enrollment.

All participating EPs, will have to re-register every year to receive EHR incentive payments. This will ensure the EPs report on meaningful use, re-attest to eligible patient volume information, and provide other administrative information. They will also be required to complete an annual survey that will address general EHR issues and concerns.

Because many of the implementation details of this program are being developed and modified by CMS, further details can be found on websites specific to the Incentive Program. Updated and detailed information on the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program will be maintained and is available at <http://michiganhealthit.org>.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information has been incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Community Health, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mailed to ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved



Stephen Fitton, Director
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